

## Myths About Alcohol For Teens

- ♦ Myth: Alcohol gives you energy.

Nope. It is a depressant. It slows down your ability to think speak and move.

- ♦ Myth: Everybody reacts the same to alcohol.

Not hardly. There are dozens of factors that effect reactions to alcohol. (Body weight, time of day, how you feel mentally and body chemistry.

- ♦ Myth: People who drink too much only hurt themselves.

Every person who drinks has family and friends that care about them. Each of the 12 million problem drinkers in this country affects 4 other people.

- ♦ Myth: The worst thing that can happen is a raging hangover.

Sorry. If you drink enough alcohol fast enough you can almost kill yourself within a few hours.

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## What Teens Need to Know About Drinking and Driving



**A Handbook for Teens in  
Kentucky**

## Dangers of Drunk Driving

How dangerous is drinking and driving? This is a question that puzzles many teens today. And is one of the leading causes of death among teens between the ages of 15-24.



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Alcohol kills 6.5 times more youth than all other illicit drugs combined. Youth who drink alcohol are 7.5 times more likely to use any illicit drug, and 50 times more likely to use cocaine than other people who never drink alcohol.

Poor grades are correlated with increased use of alcohol.

## Did You Know?

Alcohol use is the number one drug problem among young people (CSAP, 1996)

Traffic crashes are the major cause of death for children in the age group 0-14. Almost 1/4 (21.4%) of these deaths are alcohol related. (NHTSA 1995)

Under age drinking costs the U.S. more than \$53 million every year- enough to buy every school system a state-of-the-art computer. (CJJDP, 1999)

Minimum Drinking Age Laws reduced traffic fatalities involving drivers 18-20 years old by 13%. These laws have saved an estimated 18,220 lives since 1975. (NHSTA, 1999)

During a typical weekend an average of one teenager (15-20) dies each hour from a car crash, more than 45% of those crashes involved alcohol. (NHSTA, NCSA, 1999).

## The Actual Cost of Drunk Driving

Category	Cost
Towing Charge	\$100
Impound Lot (Storage)	\$15/day
License Reinstatement Fee	\$250
New Drivers License	\$15
Alcohol Assessment	\$125
Maximum Fine	\$700
High Risk Insurance for 3 yrs.	\$11,400
Lawyer's Fees	\$2,500
Total	\$15,105

